

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-869001/P17317

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
applying carbon dioxide to a surface of a reticle;
forming a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface of the reticle at a temperature below a sublimation temperature of carbon dioxide, the solid carbon dioxide layer preventing particles from contacting the surface of the reticle; and spraying the surface of the reticle with carbon dioxide inside a lithography tool.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said applying comprises spraying the surface of the reticle with carbon dioxide and removing particles from the surface with carbon dioxide snow.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said applying comprises spraying carbon dioxide snow at a grazing angle with respect to the surface of the reticle.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising cooling the reticle to a temperature below a sublimation

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temperature of carbon dioxide before said forming a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface of the reticle.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said forming a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface of the reticle comprises spraying carbon dioxide snow at a substantially 90 degree angle with respect to the surface of the reticle.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising: enclosing the reticle with the solid carbon dioxide layer in a carrier; and maintaining a temperature around the reticle below a sublimation temperature of carbon dioxide.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising raising a temperature around the reticle above a carbon dioxide sublimation temperature.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing the solid carbon dioxide layer from the surface of the reticle.

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10. (Canceled).

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising reflecting radiation off the surface of the reticle in a lithography tool.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising reflecting extreme ultraviolet radiation off the surface of the reticle in a lithography tool.

13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
spraying carbon dioxide to remove particles on a surface of a reticle;
cooling the reticle to a temperature below a sublimation temperature of carbon dioxide;
forming a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface of the cooled reticle to prevent particles from contacting the surface of the reticle;
placing a pellicle over the reticle;
warming the reticle to sublimate the solid carbon dioxide layer;
removing the pellicle from the reticle; and

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spraying gas to remove particles on the surface.

19-20. (Canceled).

21. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for applying carbon dioxide to a surface of a reticle;

means for forming a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface of the reticle at a temperature below a sublimation temperature of carbon dioxide, the solid carbon dioxide layer preventing particles from contacting the surface of the reticle; and

means for spraying the surface of the reticle with carbon dioxide inside a lithography tool.

22. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said means for applying comprises means for spraying the surface of the reticle with carbon dioxide and means for removing particles from the surface with carbon dioxide snow.

23. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said means for applying comprises means for spraying carbon dioxide snow at a grazing angle with respect to the surface of the reticle.

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24. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising means for cooling the reticle to a temperature below a sublimation temperature of carbon dioxide.

25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said means for forming a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface of the reticle comprises means for spraying carbon dioxide snow at a substantially 90 degree angle with respect to the surface of the reticle.

26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising:
means for enclosing the reticle with the solid carbon dioxide layer in a carrier; and
means for maintaining a temperature around the reticle below a sublimation temperature of carbon dioxide.

27. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising means for raising a temperature around the reticle above a carbon dioxide sublimation temperature.

28. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising means for removing the solid carbon dioxide layer from the surface of the reticle.

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29. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for spraying carbon dioxide to remove particles on a surface of a reticle;

means for cooling the reticle to a temperature below a sublimation temperature of carbon dioxide;

means for forming a solid carbon dioxide layer on the surface of the cooled reticle to prevent particles from contacting the surface of the reticle;

means for placing a pellicle over a reticle;

means for warming the reticle to sublime the solid carbon dioxide layer;

means for removing the pellicle from the reticle; and

means for spraying gas to remove particles on the surface.